

Immigration in the United States of America;

A brief summary from Colonial to Today

In the colonial period there were three main waves of migration to what became the United States of America. The Spanish Wave, the English Wave, and the French Wave. The Spaniards came concerned about their holy trinity; they wanted to claim new territory for Spain, they wanted to get gold, and they wanted to spread Catholicism. The Spanish Wave is best described as an intense period of missionary work in converting the Native Americans to Catholicism, taking over large portions of the territory west of the Appalachian Mountains, and the taking of a large portion of the gold available in the territory.

Spanish Wave;

- Gold, Land, Religion
- Soldiers and Conquerors and Missionaries, not families.
- Everything goes to Spain
- Northwest Passage

The English, on the other hand, were concerned with Colonizing and setting up trade routes. Many Englishmen came seeking religious tolerance such as the Puritans. The English carved out nearly all of the land along the east coast except for Florida which was firmly held by Spain. This wave is marked by a prosperous (for England) trade agreement, a steady flow of European Migrants (mostly Germans), and eventually revolution and the formation of the United States of America out of the 13 British Colonies.

- New territories
- Families
- Religious tolerance
- Large population of German immigrants.

The French wave is best marked by alliances with Native Americans, monopolizing the fur trade, and claiming a good part of Northern North America (Canada) as their own. They were very good at claiming territory, but they usually did nothing with it (“I claim this land for France! *drop rock, priest blesses, walk away*” – Dr. Cihfield)

- Fur Trade
- Alliance with Native Americans
- Canada

As the United States progressed as a Nation, from 1790 on the Government made many legislation in regards to immigration procedures, admittance, and laws effecting migrants. For ease of studying, I will be including a list of key Immigration and Immigration effecting Legislation/Projects with summaries to help remember what each one did.

Please note that this is not guaranteeing that these will be covered on the AP Exam, just that these are some of the more important ones on record.

* The Naturalization Act of 1790 established the rules for naturalized citizenship, including 2 years living in the US and 1 year in the state where citizenship was requested. Also limited naturalization to free white peoples of good moral character.

* The Naturalization Act of 1795 increased the mandatory time from two years to 5 years. Limited naturalization to free white people.

* The Naturalization Act of 1798 increased the mandatory time from 5 years to 14 years and is considered one of the Alien and Sedition Acts. *agreed to have been written to curtail immigrants voting against the Federalist Party* Limited naturalization to free white people

*Alien Friends Act authorized the president to deport any resident alien suspected of being “dangerous to the peace and safety of the United States of America.”

*Alien Enemies Act authorized the president to apprehend and deport any alien resident whose country was at war with the United States (at the time referred to France). It is still in effect today.

*Sedition Act made it illegal to publish “false, malicious, or scandalous” writing about the Government or its officials *President Adams was not good at taking criticism*

* The Naturalization Act of 1870 set penalties for fraudulent practices and set up a system for Naturalization. Naturalization no longer limited to white people.

* The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was the first and only explicitly race-based immigration act *that was ratified by Congress*

- * The Act of 1891 established a Commissioner of Immigration in the Treasury Department.

- * The 1882 Immigration Act made several categories of immigrants ineligible for citizenship, including crazy people and those likely to become public charges.

- * The Alien Contract Labor Law of 1885 prohibited "the importation and migration of foreigners and aliens under contract or agreement to perform labor in the United States, its territories, and the District of Columbia." [1].

- * The Geary Act of 1892 strengthened the power and penalties the Chinese Exclusion Act to include mandatory residency permits. Failure to carry such permits could be charged with deportation or a year hard labor.

- * The Naturalization Act of 1906 established the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, standardized naturalization procedures, and made some knowledge of English a requirement for citizenship.

- * Gentlemen's Agreement of 1907 – Informal agreement between US and Japan where the US would not impose restrictions on Japanese immigration, but Japan would not allow further immigration to the US. *Never ratified by congress and ended in 1924

- * The Immigration Act of 1917 (Barred Zone Act) restricted immigration from Asia by creating an "Asiatic Barred Zone."

- * The Emergency Quota Act of 1921 restricted immigration from a given country to 3% of the number of people from that country living in the U.S. in 1910 *part of National Origins Formula*

- * The Immigration Act of 1924 – designed to slow down the ethnic distribution in response to increased immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe, as well as Asia. *Part of National Origins Formula*

- * The Chinese Exclusion Repeal Act of 1943 repealed the Chinese Exclusion Act and permitted Chinese nationals already in the country to become naturalized citizens.

- * The | Nationality Act of 1940 pertain chiefly to nationality at birth, nationality through naturalization," and loss of Nationality.

- * The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (or McCarran-Walter Act) eased immigration from Asia, but gave the government the ability to deport illegal immigrants suspected of Communist sympathies.

* Operation Wetback was a 1954 project of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to remove approx. 1.2 million illegal immigrants from the southwestern United States, with a focus on Mexican. *Wetback is a slur to Mexicans in America and has been since the 20s*

* The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 discontinued quotas based on national origin,

* The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 made it a crime to hire an illegal immigrant and required employers to attest to their employees' legal status.

* The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 made harsher penalties to immigrants who committed a crime *Deportation could be sentenced for someone who shoplifted*

* The REAL ID Act (2005) created more restrictions on political asylum, increased immigration enforcement funding and agencies, made it harder of immigrants to get Drivers Licenses and other forms of Identification.